

MAR 2 1967

*Pres. Shalit, Joseph*

*CIA-2-04.2 students*

### C.I.A. as Weapon

To the Editor:

In all the uproar over the C.I.A. subsidy to student organizations, it is strange that we hear no censure of the student who disclosed this information to a magazine. Nor do we hear a word of blame for the magazine that made the information public.

This disclosure has dealt a serious blow to America's efforts to counter the well-financed efforts of Communist groups to control or subvert international organizations in the educational and cultural field. It has given them a mighty propaganda weapon with which to belabor us all over the world.

Perhaps the C.I.A. should not have got involved in financing these organizations. Perhaps it would have been wiser to finance them openly. Perhaps the three Presidents — Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson — who sanctioned this operation all showed poor judgment. Perhaps.

But isn't that really irrelevant? Isn't the main point the fact that the Western world is fighting against very capable opponents in a battle for men's minds? Shouldn't we who want to see the democratic side win feel obligated not to weaken our side?

It seems to me that patriotism would so require. Or is patriotism too unsophisticated and obsolete a word to use in these times?

JOSEPH SHALIT

Philadelphia, Feb. 21, 1967